

Abstract of the Disclosure

A switch is provided for use in a communications system for  
5 transmitting traffic from a first user to a second user. The first and the  
second users are interconnected by a primary communications path and a  
redundant communications path. The switch includes a first port configured  
to receive hello communications indicative of a proper operation of the  
primary communications path and a second port for receiving data  
10 communications. A switch control monitors the receipt of the hello  
communications, directs the forwarding of received data communications up  
to a threshold capacity and , if the received data communications exceed the  
threshold capacity, drops at least a portion of the received data  
communications such that forwarded data communications are below the  
15 threshold capacity.